

Please add the following new claims:

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-- 11. A disposable diaper to be worn by a wearer, the diaper being of the type having a body portion with top and bottom sheets and an absorbent core therebetween, the diaper including a plastic layer extending to and including a plastic edge at an edge of the diaper at a waistband, wherein the improvement comprises:

a horizontally oriented strip, said strip being distinct from the top and bottom sheets, said strip being located at the waistband between the plastic edge and the wearer at a position so that the strip contacts the skin of the wearer. --

-- 12. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the strip is a padding member. --

-- 13. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the strip is a cushion. --

-- 14. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the strip is configured to soften the effect on the skin of the wearer of the plastic edge. --

-- 15. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the strip is positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage. --

-- 16. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the strip is adjacent to the plastic edge. --

-- 17. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the strip is absorbent. --

-- 18. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the entire strip is parallel to waistband. --

-- 19. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the strip is an absorbent padding member positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage, located parallel to the waistband and adjacent to the plastic edge. --

-- 20. The diaper of claim 11 wherein the strip is absorbent, positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage, located parallel to the waistband, and adjacent to the plastic edge. -

-- 21. A disposable diaper to be worn by a wearer, the diaper being of the type having a body portion with top and bottom sheets and an absorbent core therebetween, the diaper including a plastic

layer extending to and including a plastic edge at an edge of the diaper at a waistband, wherein the improvement comprises:

a discrete member, interposed between said plastic edge and the wearer, said member having a rectangular shape and being located substantially only at the waistband and extending horizontally with respect to the plastic edge at a position so that the discrete member contacts the skin of the wearer. - -

- - 22. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member is configured to soften the effect on the skin of the wearer of the plastic edge. - -

- - 23. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member provides a cushion. - -

- - 24. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member provides a discrete thickness between the plastic edge and the wearer. - -

- - 25. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member is adjacent to the waistband and the plastic edge. - -

- - 26. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member is positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage. - -

- - 27. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member is absorbent. - -

- - 28. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member is parallel to the waistband. - -

- - 29. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member is an absorbent padding member positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage, located parallel to the waistband and adjacent to the plastic edge. - -

- - 30. The diaper of claim 21 wherein the discrete member is absorbent, positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage, located parallel to the waistband, and adjacent to the plastic edge. - -

- - 31. A disposable diaper to be worn by a wearer, the diaper being of the type having a body portion with top and bottom sheets and an absorbent core therebetween, the diaper including a plastic

layer extending to and including a plastic edge at an edge of the diaper at a leg hole, wherein the improvement comprises:

a strip, distinct from the top and bottom sheets, and located at the leg hole, between the plastic edge and the wearer. --

-- 32. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is a padding member. --

-- 33. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is a cushion. --

-- 34. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is configured to soften the effect on the skin of the wearer of the plastic edge. --

-- 35. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage. --

-- 36. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is adjacent to the plastic edge. --

-- 37. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is absorbent. --

-- 38. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is parallel to leg hole. --

-- 39. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is an absorbent padding member positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage, located parallel to the leg hole and adjacent to the plastic edge. --

-- 40. The diaper of claim 31 wherein the strip is absorbent, positioned to provide an additional barrier against leakage, located parallel to the leg hole, and adjacent to the plastic edge. --